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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: ERNST FUCHS

ART UNIT:

SERIAL NO.: 10/

EXAMINER:

FILED: CONCURRENTLY HEREWITH

P.C.T. APPLICATION NO.: PCT/DE2003/001284

P.C.T. INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE: APRIL 16, 2003

PRIORITY CLAIM: JUNE 27, 2002

TITLE: SURGICAL INSTRUMENT

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner for Patents  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Prior to an examination on the merits of the above-identified patent application, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

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I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service "Express Mail - Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. §1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Hon. Commissioner for Patents, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Edwin D. Schindler, Reg. No. 31,459

December 24, 2004

Date